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Dr. H. Wakeham

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F. E. Resnik

Meeting at the Tobacco Institute

At your suggestion, I accompanied Alex Holtzman to the Tobacco Institute meeting on the flammability of upholstered furniture. All the companies were represented by their research directors as well as their legal counsel.

Nothing really concrete came out of the meeting. C. Hetsko stated that the problem is not cigarettes, but careless or intoxicated smokers. He felt that one approach is to make nonflammable furniture for those people who need such items. Our industry is going to be plagued with the problem of fires since cigarettes are always sighted as the primary ignition source.

There was considerable discussion regarding a self-extinguishing cigarette. It was pointed out that cigarettes will statically burn for 12 to 15 minutes, however, this situation is true in an ash tray. The problem arises when a cigarette becomes lodged between upholstered cushions and in this instance cigarettes are reported to burn as long as 30 minutes. The research directors felt that we need more information with regard to the static burning of cigarettes under various conditions and on various substrates. I discussed the patent situation on self-extinguishing cigarettes which are usually not practical for our business. The patents can be categorized into four main areas:

1) Various types of holders for cigarettes including unique ash trays.

2) Cigarette wrappers which are slow burning including the use of glass fibers.

3) Barriers in the tobacco rod per se which will cause the cigarette to extinguish.

4) Barriers near the end of the cigarette including the use

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of aluminum foil on the exterior part of the cigarette. Since the filter is nonflammable, this type of device is of very little use.

The discussion also included the fact that slow burning cigarettes produce more tar and nicotine. It was emphasized that this point needs to be pointed out to the Consumer Products Safety Commission. Liggett and Myers was given the assignment to write a report on this subject illustrating how slow static burning rates or slow burning cigarettes produce more tar and nicotine.

The Tobacco Institute also requested a list of organizations which might be able to carry out various combustion studies. Arthur D. Little and Battelle Institute were mentioned as possible organizations. It was also emphasized that additional information is needed on fires, for example, how many fires are caused by TV's, arsons, electrical devices, etc. It was pointed out that the statistics on the cause of fires are generally poor. Discussions with fire marshalls have indicated that they are forced to put down the cause of fires many times when they do not know the true cause of the fire. When the cause is unknown, they generally indicate that it is due to cigarettes or electrical shorts.

During the course of the meeting, a UPI wire was xeroxed and passed around to the attendees. It stated that the National Safety Council has refused to support the development of a self-extinguishing cigarette designed to prevent accidential fires. I am attaching a copy of this wire.

I am also including the document which you forwarded to me on the meeting as well as your memo on cigarettes and flammable mattresses. I had mentioned your memo to Alex Holtzman and he requested that I send him an additional copy, which I have done. Nothing has transpired on this subject since my return.

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